

CONFIDENTIAL

Limit Distribution

April 21, 1958

S/S - Mr. Fisher Howe

EUR:EE - Henry P. Leverich

Soviet Note Re Alleged US Violation of Soviet Air Space near
Velikaya Loma

The Soviet Embassy this afternoon delivered by messenger a note referring to the U.S. Aide Memoire of March 31 replying to the Soviet Aide Memoire of March 5 Concerning an alleged violation on March 2 by an American military jet aircraft of the Soviet frontier in the Far East.

The note accuses the United States of an attempt to deny the fact of the violation and reiterates with certain additional details the Soviet version of the incident. The note states that the Soviet Government expects that the U.S. Government will investigate further the facts of the violation, severely punish those guilty, take necessary measures to prohibit such violations in the future, and concludes with the assertion that in the event of new violations, full responsibility for the consequences will fall upon the Government of the United States.

An official translation of the note (original and two copies) is attached. A copy of the translation has also been given to EUR - Mr. Kohler, who had action on the previous note.

cc: EUR - Mr. Kohler

Attachment:

Translation of Soviet note
EUR:EE:PA Smith, Jr. :ps
4-21-58

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Division of Language Services
(Translation)

No. 9

The Embassy of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics presents its compliments to the Department of State of the United States of America and, referring to the Aide Memoire of the Department of State dated March 11, 1958 and containing a reply of the Government of the United States of America to the Aide Memoire of the Soviet Government dated March 5 concerning a violation of the Soviet state border in the Far East by an American military jet aircraft, has the honor to communicate the following:

In the reply Aide Memoire of the Department of State an attempt is made to deny the fact of an American military aircraft having violated the Soviet border.

As has already been communicated, the Soviet Government has at its disposal carefully verified data on this violation, the reliability of which leaves no room for doubt. According to these data, on March 2, 1958 at 4:05 a.m. Moscow time, an American military reconnaissance aircraft of the Lockheed U-2 type, having appeared from the direction of the Sea of Japan, violated the state border of the Soviet Union in the area of the settlement Velikaya Kama, 32 kilometers south of that settlement. Then the violating aircraft deeply penetrated the airspace of the USSR and, after remaining over its territory for a considerable period of time, passed beyond the limits of the Soviet territory 45 kilometers south of the Olga Bay at 8:11 a.m.

In the light of the established facts the reply of the Government of the United States of America can in no way be recognized as satisfactory. Naturally, the question arises as to how to explain such a reply of the American Government: whether it was made deliberately by its military representatives in the Far East or whether it considered it possible to protect such persons subordinate to it, who, without regard to the possible consequences, sanction violation of Soviet borders, thus creating a threat of international complications.

Such a reply of the Government of the United States of America to the communication of the Soviet Government cannot fail to cause serious concern, the more so since the new case of violation of Soviet airspace took place after warnings on the part of the Government of the USSR to the effect that American authorities should take the necessary steps to prevent such violations.

In connection with the foregoing the Soviet Government expects that the Government of the United States of America will undertake further investigation of this act of violation of the airspace of the USSR by an American military aircraft and will punish severely those guilty of this violation.

The Soviet Government also expects that the Government of the United States of America will take the necessary steps to prevent violations of Soviet airspace by American aircraft in the future and states that in the event of new violations full responsibility for their consequences will rest with the Government of the United States.

Washington, D. C.

April 1958